FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

A South Korean Freighter was hit by a missile off the Iranian coast early on 8 January, Lloyds of London reported in a statement cited by AFP. Earlier, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced that the Iraqi Air Force hit two maritime targets near Khark Island on 7 January. Monitored Iranian media did not mention these Iraqi attacks, but sources in Manama confirmed that one vessel had been hit by a missile, according to AFP.

On land, a UN delegation arrived in the Iranian town of Susangerd to inspect the results of Iraq's "savage" air attacks on Iranian villages, Tehran radio reported.

Lebanon

Al-Naqurah Talks — After analyzing Lebanon's position in the 7 January talks the Israeli defense establishment decided not to send its delegation to Al-Naqurah on 10 January, Jerusalem radio announced. The Israeli Cabinet will meet on 9 January to consider Israel's future moves, the radio added. Earlier, *THE JERUSALEM POST* said the talks had reached "stalemate" and IDF radio predicted that only a substantive change in the Lebanese stance will bring Israel back to the talks. . The Lebanese had stipulated that the Israelis should submit a program for their total withdrawal before any discussion of UNIFIL's deployment, according to a Lebanese military spokesman cited by Beirut radio. If and when the Israelis submit a withdrawal program and UNIFIL's role is discussed, Lebanon will approve UNIFIL's expansion from 5,000 to 30,000 troops and its deployment in all of southern Lebanon up to the Israeli border, the spokesman added.

Beirut Security — Gunmen kidnapped the American director of the Catholic Relief Bureau in Beirut on 8 January, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the Swiss charge d'affaires who was kidnapped on 3 January has been released, AFP reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Israeli and Egyptian representatives will meet in Beersheba next week to prepare the negotiations on the stationing of UN forces in the disputed Tabah area, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed in remarks reported by ITIM. Peres also noted that he was "favorably surprised" by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recently expressed wish for dialogue and cooperation with the Israeli prime minister.

Jordan

The conclusion of the air defense system deal with the Soviet Union, which will begin early this year, arises from King Husayn's concern for raising the standard of Jordan's defense capability, *AL-DUSTUR* stressed. The deal with the Soviet Union affirms Jordan's ability to establish good relations with all countries and shows that countries with limited resources can reject the "policy of extortion" used against them through arms, food, and other fields, the paper asserted. Recalling the U.S. retraction of its commitment to supply Stinger missiles to Jordan due to "Zionist pressure and blackmail in Congress," *AL-DUSTUR* expressed appreciation for the Soviet Union's affirmative response to Jordan's defense needs.

PLO

According to Amman's *Al-DUSTUR*, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim denied the discovery of a plot to assassinate him at Karachi Airport on 29 December, as had been reported in Jerusalem's *AL-SHA'B*.

Afghanistan

The DRA delivered a strong protest to Pakistan over alleged ongoing "violations and provocations against the DRA borders," specifically charging that on 28 December a 250-strong group that included 50 Pakistani militiamen entered Paktia Province and fired on a village and a border post, Kabul radio reported. If such interventions are not stopped, DRA security forces will be obliged to take "firm and similar action," the DRA warned. Pakistan also lodged a strong protest, reported by Karachi radio, against an air violation by four Afghan planes into the Chitral District on 7 December.

Meanwhile, in an interview with BAKHTAR cited by Kabul Radio, a DRA Government spokesman charged that at the recent ICO meeting in Sanaa, Arab "agents" of imperialist and Zionist powers diverted attention from vital Muslim issues by raising the Afghan question.

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Protest Lodged on Pakistan Border Violations

LD071721 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1530 today, and the following points were made to him by the acting chief of the First Political Department:

Despite repeated protests by the DRA, violations of and provocations against the DRA borders by the military forces of Pakistan have not ceased, although the relevant authorities of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry had assured the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad that the Pakistani Armed Forces are under strict instructions not to engage in any kind of armed provocation against the DRA.

On 28 December 1984 a 250-strong band, including 50 Pakistani militiamen, crossed the border from Pakistani territory and entered the Samkani area of Paktia Province. They repeatedly fired explosive rounds on Bankat village and border post, as a result of which a number of local people and personnel of the border post garrison were among the victims of the incident. These firing incidents continually take place.

The DRA Foreign Ministry once again strongly protests these direct aggressions and provocations by the military authorities of Pakistan and firmly demands the cessation of all interventions and aggressions by the Armed Forces and militia of Pakistan against the DRA, before the DRA security forces are obliged to engage in firm and similar action.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Discusses Issues

LD072116 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] In reply to a question from a BIA correspondent, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization member-countries was held at the beginning of Jaddi [which began 21 Dec 84] in Sanaa, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic. We recently received the documents relating to this conference.

At the present moment all countries of the world, including Islamic countries, are faced with the most important and most urgent questions, whose solution is on the daily agenda of the international community. The most important of these questions are:

— Maintaining the just rights of the Muslim and persecuted people of Palestine;

— Liberating the Baytolmoqadas [mosque in Jerusalem], the first kibla [direction in which Muslims face when praying — the Baytolmoqadas in Jerusalem was the focus for Muslims until Mecca assumed that role] of the Muslims of the world, which is under the sway of the Israeli Zionist state;

— Putting an end to the occupation of southern Lebanon by Israel, and to the repeated interference of the United States in that Islamic country;

— Ending the occupation of the territories of some Middle Eastern Arab countries and the Golan Heights of Syria by Israel;

— Eliminating a serious threat to the national interests of the Arab states and other Islamic countries which has come about as a result of the Tel Aviv-Washington strategic alliance;

— Maintaining the right of self-determination for the Muslims of the Western Sahara;

— Putting an end to the fratricidal war between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Iraq;

— Resolving issues related to the socioeconomic growth of the Islamic countries and to the creation of a new international economic order;

— And, most important of all, matters related to the struggle for peace and against the warmongering and militarist policies of the United States and its NATO allies, which has not only endangered the peace and security of the world of Islam, but of all mankind.

However, imperialist and Zionist powers and the agents of their influence among the Islamic countries, in order to prevent serious attention being paid to the above vital issues and to divert the attention of the participants of the Sanaa meeting and public opinion from seeking decisive solutions to these matters — in this way deepening discord and widening the gap between the Islamic countries — repeat the chorus invented in Washington entitled the Afghanistan question, as has occurred before in this meeting. Thus, instead of concentrating on the major and vital questions of the world of Islam, they try to interfere in the internal affairs of our independent, Muslim, and nonaligned country, the DRA. Even more ludicrous still is the fact that the lackeys of imperialism and Zionism shamelessly give themselves the right to speak in the name of the free and Muslim people of Afghanistan and suggest for our people, too, the shameful and apalling destiny that they have chosen for their peoples. The people of the DRA, by bringing to victory the April revolution, have once and for all chosen their real destiny and are not in need of the puppets and spokesmen of Washington and Tel Aviv to make their destiny.

Those who in other international forums stood in prayer behind their imperialist masters, at the Sanaa conference also followed their lead and spoke about the presence of the Soviet Union's forces in Afghanistan. In this connection we once again point out that the DRA Government invited the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union in accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation dated 5 December 1978 between the two countries, and on the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter, in order to assist the people and Armed Forces of the DRA in rebuffing aggression and armed intervention against revolutionary Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan and Iran.

Of course, this internationalist assistance will continue until the imperialist and reactionary interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan completely cease. This is a matter solely between our country and the Soviet Union, and therefore no state and no one — in particular those who have transformed their territories into nests of traitors to our homeland, thieves and murderers; and into bases for aggression and armed border provocations against the DRA — has the right to present to us his self-serving proposals.

In connection with so-called Afghan refugees abroad, it should be said that the DRA Government has on several occasions announced that a number of Afghans who have been deceived by the enemy and had abandoned their fatherland could return freely as full-fledged citizens to the bosom of their motherland; they could rescue themselves from the shameful and appalling conditions in foreign countries and not let the militarists and reactionaries of the region use the so-called Afghan refugee question as a begging bowl and for their sinister aims.

Those who as spokesmen for imperialism and representatives of Zionism hypocritically promote anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet designs in Islamic gatherings under the name and title of the sacred religion of Islam, can in no way conceal their anti-human and anti-Islamic faces. It is no longer hidden from anyone that it is these superficially Islamic states who are not only partners to the catastrophic crimes of imperialists and Zionists against the Muslim peoples and all progressive and peace-loving humanity, but are playing an active role in the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan and in killing Muslims in support of the imperialists, the Chinese expansionists, and reaction in the region.

Fortunately, in the international Islamic community there are some states which, realizing the true stance of the sacred religion of Islam concerning the issues with which the Islamic countries are faced, take realistic positions which are in the interests of Islam. They define well the common enemy of the world of Islam and all mankind, that is, colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racial prejudice and apartheid. And the people of the DRA express gratitude for the healthy position of the representatives of this group of Islamic countries.

The DRA is an Islamic country. It respects and observes the laudible traditions and national customs, in particular the healthy religious feelings of the people. However, our people do not allow anyone, by abusing the sacred religion of Islam and in order to render service to imperialism, to interfere in the affairs of their country. Therefore the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that any sort of mention of the so-called question of Afghanistan in Islamic gatherings is not only contrary to and blatantly in violation of the charter of the Islamic Conference and the Charter of the United Nations, but is an open and unjustifiable interference in the internal affairs of the Muslim and revolutionary country, Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry voices its strong protest against these anti-Afghan and anti-Islamic designs, and announces that any sort of so-called resolution concerning Afghanistan made in the absence of the DRA at the instigation of imperialism and Zionism, will merely be a waste paper and legally void.

BAKHTAR: Rebel Group Destroyed, Weapons Seized

LD071434 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Kabul, 7 Jan (BAKHTAR) — As a result of operations by the brave and heroic officers, troops, and personnel of the Armed Forces in Kabul, Kapisa, and Paktia Provinces recently, 37 servants of the reaction and imperialism including a commander and a deputy commander of the Jami'at group named Khan Jan were crushed, and a large quantity of heavy weapons including recoilless rifles and DShK's were destroyed.

Ershad on Elections, Socioeconomic Programs
BK080202 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said there is no alternative to elections for peaceful transition to democracy. He was addressing a large public meeting at Lalpur in Nator District yesterday. The president said that the election to Parliament will be held as announced whether any particular political party or alliance participated in it or not. The president reiterated that he is pledge-bound to the nation to hand over power to an elected government after introduction of some basic reformative measures for socioeconomic development. He said he is determined to establish democracy to fulfill his commitment to the nation.

General Ershad said people of the country are in favor of the polls, but he regretted that some political parties have been avoiding it on various pretexts. This has demonstrated that these political parties are afraid of facing the people. They have no concrete program for the welfare of the people and they are not confident about popular verdict through elections.

The president recalled various development programs implemented by his government during the last 33 months and said these were directed toward improving the lot of the people, including peasants, workers, employees, students, and teachers. In this context, he referred to the introduction of the upazila [subdistrict] system and said this has brought administration, judiciary, and other facilities within easy reach of the rural people.

The president mentioned about the recent unprecedented floods in the country and said it was possible to avert the crisis as a result of the united efforts and cooperation of the people, administration, and members of the Armed Forces.

Turning to the students, he called for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions for imparting proper education.

The minister for Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives, Major General Mahmudul Hassan, and the zonal martial law administrator Zone B, Brigadier Mahmudul Hassan, were present.

Earlier, President Ershad inaugurated the newly constructed auditorium at Qadirabad cantonment. The president, who is also the colonel commandant of the Engineering Corps, addressed the annual command conference of the Corps of Engineers at the cantonment.

Gandhi Appoints 3 Party General Secretaries

BK071304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The All India Congress-I is to have three new general secretaries. They are: Mr A.B.A. Khan Chaudhury, Mr Dalbir Singh, and Mr Shrikant Verma. The appointments have been made by the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, following the resignation of four previous secretaries. They are: Mr Arun Nehru, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, Mr Abdul Ghafoor, and Mr Chand Ram.

PRC Envoy on 'Marked Improvement in Relations'

BK070415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Chinese ambassador to India, Mr Li Lianqing, has said that the commitment for peace by his country and India has led to marked improvement in relations. He said this at a public reception given to him by the India-China Friendship Association in New Delhi yesterday. He said it is the desire of his government to foster friendship between the two countries, reminiscent of the days of the 1950's.

South Asian Regional Cooperation Meeting Opened

BK071258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] India has called for an end to mutual distrust and suspicion in order to promote regional cooperation. Inaugurating the 3-day meeting of the technical committee of the 7-nation South Asian Regional Cooperation countries in New Delhi today, the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, said arms race is continuing unabated and tension prevails in various regions of the world. He said it is essential for the developing countries that they cooperate in various fields in an atmosphere of mutual trust and friendship. The delegates from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives are attending the conference.

New Arunachal Pradesh Ministry Sworn In

BK070913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpt] In Arunachal Pradesh, a new Council of Ministers has been sworn in. The lieutenant governor, Mr T.V. Rajeshwar, administered the oath of office and secrecy to four cabinet and two deputy ministers at a brief ceremony in Itanagar this morning. The chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang, took the oath earlier on the 2d of this month.

Nuclear Power Plant Uses Indigenous Technology

BK031235 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The Kakrapar nuclear power plant in Surat district of Gujarat will have greater use of indigenous technology and know-how. Being built on the bank of the river Tapti at a cost of 382 crore rupees, it will be the country's fifth atomic power project. Modeled on the design of the Narora atomic power plant in Uttar Pradesh, the Kakrapar plant will comprise, among other installations, two reactors each of 235 megawatts capacity, a water treatment plant, and two sets of cooling towers.

Protest Lodged With Kabul Over Air Violation

BK071538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul authorities today over the latest air violation carried out by four Afghan aircraft yesterday. The protest was lodged through the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad.

Four Afghan planes violated Pakistan's airspace in the Arandu area of Chitral District yesterday and dropped two bombs and some rockets inside Pakistani territory. Fortunately, the unprovoked violation did not cause any loss of life or property. The Afghan charge d'affaires was told that Pakistan considers very regrettable the fact that despite warnings from the Pakistan side, the Kabul authorities have not abandoned the dangerous and provocative manners of increasing tension along the borders.

The Kabul authorities have once again been told to refrain from aggressive actions which are very dangerous for peace and security of the region.

Jordanian Crown Prince Meets Zia, Others

BK071604 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal had another meeting with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon. They exchanged views on bilateral matters and developments in southwest Asia. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik, and the Jordanian ambassador to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Earlier in Rawalpindi today, Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan exchanged views on bilateral, regional, and international issues. The federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, also met with the Jordanian crown prince. They held talks on matters of cooperation in the socioeconomic fields, particularly on cooperation in agriculture among Islamic countries.

The crown prince also visited the Tarbela Dam. He was briefed on the special features of the dam and its role in national economy.

The direct telephone link between Pakistan and Jordan through the international dialing system has been established with immediate effect.

Editorial Reviews 'Peaceful Nuclear Program'

GF041218 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 2 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Peaceful Nuclear Program"]

[Text] President General Muhammad Ziaul Haq has once again said that Pakistan's nuclear program is an entirely peaceful program. Gen Muhammad Ziaul Haq made this statement in his address as chairman to the 17th annual meeting of the Atomic Energy Council. This meeting was held to report on the annual output of the council. The good news given at the council was that it has succeeded in producing electricity from nuclear energy, has stepped up the search for minerals, has discovered high-grade seed strains, and provided better facilities for treatment in medical centers using nuclear energy.

Pakistan is not a novice in the field of peaceful nuclear energy experimentation. These experiments have been conducted for years in the fields of medicine, health care, and agriculture. The Karachi nuclear electric power station has been in operation for several years now, although on a limited scale. Nuclear energy also has been used in agriculture, and new strains of cotton plants have been successfully grown. Pakistan has recently experimented in the field of enriching uranium, and this has saved us huge expenditures in the import of necessary material for this purpose. Pakistan's successes in the peaceful use of nuclear power have created displeasure in some countries, among certain hostile elements, and in the anti-Pakistan lobby. They accuse us of intending to use nuclear energy for military purposes and that we are engaged in manufacturing nuclear weapons. On the bases of these accusations, the United States had until recently discontinued economic aid to Pakistan.

Some elements had gone so far as to threaten to attack our nuclear installations. Pakistan has constantly issued assurances that its nuclear program is totally peaceful and that it is only meant to meet its growing energy needs. Nevertheless, hostile propaganda continues against Pakistan. The president has reiterated again his previous assurances. Let us hope that this latest assurance neutralizes the effects of this baseless and mean propaganda.

Imam Khomeyni Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani
LD071523 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran received Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday.

Montazeri Stresses Importance of Propaganda
LD051516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Officials in charge of the headquarters for external and internal publicity of the Dawn 10 Days [Khomeyni returned to Iran on 1 February 1979 and the Shah's regime was toppled 10 days later on 11 February; this 10-day period is called Dawn 10 Days and is celebrated every year], accompanied by the international under secretary of the Islamic Guidance Ministry and members of the Publicity Coordination Council, supervisors of the IRNA representative offices abroad, and Mr Kharrazi, head of IRNA; members of the Islamic associations of the Mines and Metals Ministry, staff and responsible officials of Tehran's teacher training center for teaching retarded children, as well as officials of the general employment office in Arak, yesterday met with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In the course of this meeting, while referring to the importance of propaganda and publicity in the world and its role in achieving political and economic objectives, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Today, the highest expenditure in the world is on propaganda, even in economic matters; in this way, the colonial powers find a market for their goods in the deprived countries of the world. Therefore, we must not overlook the importance of propaganda and its positive and deep effect. Of course, there are basic differences between publicity in Islam, our aim, and the current propaganda in the world.

His eminence went on to say: The important points which we should bear in mind, particularly after the 6 years or so since our revolution, are these: We should try to avoid basing our publicity on arousing the people's feelings unnecessarily and on chanting slogans. Rather, we should make sure that our propaganda increases the people's awareness and understanding. We should not think of presenting a series of superficial and shallow slogans without paying any attention to the realities of society and people during such special occasions as the Dawn 10 Days. Such propaganda might seem intersting to some people for a short while, but they will have no positive long-term effect. Therefore, I think that in any propaganda, in addition to presenting achievements and demonstrating points of strength, possible problems and weaknesses should also be mentioned in a wise, logical, and constructive manner so that the people become more involved in affairs and prepare themselves to solve and confront the problems.

His eminence emphasized: Basically, general constructive criticism will certainly benefit the revolution; harmful deeds which should be avoided are insulting attitudes which will ruin individuals. While stressing the importance of the Islamic Revolution and its comparison with the revolution of the early Islamic era, we can enumerate that era's problems and the difficulties that other world revolutions had to face. If we were to explain the stance of the East and the West against our revolution, the deep effect of this revolution in the world, and the hope that it has brought to the hearts of deprived and oppressed nations; if we were to inform the people of the problems created for the revolution by its enemies and the superpowers by showing them how to confront these problems with logic and reasoning; if we were to criticize scientfically the shortcomings and weaknesses in dealing with the problems, then this method would be useful for safeguarding the revolution and keeping the people in the picture. And when our people are made aware of the weak points and problems, they will trust our propaganda more and will realize that our propaganda is closer to the truth and reality, and naturally it will have a greater effect on their minds, understanding, and emotions.

The Grand Ayatollah Montazeri pointed out: In my opinion, we should not stop constructive criticisms and logical expression of shortcomings, and we should not become angry at hearing criticisms. It is the same as hearing friendly advice about our personal faults. We shall never be annoyed with such a friend, but rather welcome him for telling us our shortcomings to enable us to overcome them.

About the need for calculated and accurate propaganda abroad, His eminence emphasized: Unfortunately, because of the extensive poisonous propaganda waged by the enemies of Islam and revolution abroad, which has depicted a distorted picture of our revolution in some places, our need for active and extensive propaganda is great. And this is a responsibility shouldered by the Islamic Guidance Ministry and the publicity officials. Our news agency representatives abroad should also shoulder this burden of responsibility by striving to prepare accurate reports on the revolution and its progress as far as possible, and send them to the world press and news media, using every possible means, in a form that they will publish. They should try to discover the right method in every country on the basis of the revolution's requirements so that they will succeed. The method of approach varies in different parts of the world and the favorite method should be recognized with care.

In conclusion, once again, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed the need to attract competent and strong individuals for various posts, particularly in the publicity sector, at home and abroad, and reiterated: I feel danger in this game of lines by which every individual is given a line and is designated a follower of line one or three, or this personality's and that personality's line. This act of drawing lines is detrimental to Islam and the revolution and must be dicarded, and the criteria for employing people in responsible positions should be based on their religious commitment, capability, and suitability for the job concerned, regardless of the idelogical lines they are supposed to follow.

Interior Minister on Drugs, Elections, Terrorism

GF051504 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Dec 84 p 2

["Exclusive" *KEYHAN* interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri while on a tour of Sistan va Baluchestan Province — date not given]

[Excerpts] At the start of the interview, the Interior minister discussed the establishment of new border posts to stop the flow of drugs into the country. He said: Before the victory of the revolution, the borders of the country were not protected. After the victory of the revolution, due to these open borders and the lack of effort by border personnel, the enemies of the revolution, including drug smugglers, misused these borders. In response the government prepared a border development plan in order to close and effectively control the borders. With the formation of a headquarters, the Ministry of Roads, Islamic Revolution Committees, and the Reconstruction Crusade actively entered the field. The work of the headquarters in building roads and border posts has stopped a great deal of drug traffic. The high level of arrests and quantities of drugs discovered shows its success. However, this is not sufficient and we have to seriously continue our activities until complete control of the border is achieved.

Referring to the subject of parties that are legal or illegal in Iran, the Interior minister said: All political groups and parties are currently legal except those which are subject to the 10-point statement of the prosecutor's office.

On the subject of the next presidential elections and the date and method of elections, he said: Naturally, the term of our presidency is 4 years, after which time a new president assumes the post. However, the date of the presidential elections has yet to be set. This is because to date we have been preparing the bill on presidential elections. The previous law was based on Article 85 of the Constitution. A commission was tasked with preparing a new bill and offering it to the Majlis. The Interior Ministry has done this and has sent the elections bill to the Cabinet. The Majlis has to approve the bill for it to become law. The date of the elections will then be decided on the basis of this law and its administrative clauses and in coordination with the Council of Guardians.

Commenting on the recent Tehran bombings, the Interior minister said: This is not the first time such things have happened and we can expect more of the same from the counterrevolution. The counterrevolution resorts to such acts to create fear in people and make them dissatisfied with the government and officials. However, considering the locations of the blasts, we see that the faithful and Hezbollahi people live in the bombed areas and they are not afraid of these actions; in fact, they have become more determined and braver in their ties with the government and officials. The other aim of the enemy in such bombings is to show its presence and pretend that it is still here. This type of behavior indicates a last ditch position.

Ministry Official on Embassy, Consular Program

GF080752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to establish and expand political, economic, and educational relations with Third World countries, during the past 2 years has opened 15 new embassies in various countries in Asia and Africa and 2 embassies in Central and South America. The deputy for education and consular affairs of the Foreign Ministry, while announcing this in an interview with the reporter of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, described the problems and consular plans of our country. He noted that following the Islamic Revolution, andconsidering fundamental changes in political direction, particularly with regard to foreign policy, relations between Iran and Third World countries, particularly Islamic countries, was given priority. Therefore, giving attention to the Third World countries was considered a serious task in planning the Foreign Ministry's work.

He added: In connection with countries other than those of the Third World, among our important goals are: the exchange of facilities and an increase in the level of political co-operation in international matters; the issue of closeness with other countries; learning about their situation; and making it possible to make cultural exchanges with other nations.

With respect to personnel for embassies and consulates, he said that at present the training of the necessary personnel is done through various ways. The Foreign Ministry Institute for Higher Education, which began its work in 1982, accepts 100 new students every year through examinations. After a 4-year course, Iran's foreign policy requirements will be satisfied. A number of scholarships also are given to qualified and interested individuals so that they may obtain the necessary expertise of foreign countries. Apart from these issues, in order to increase the quality of work and familiarize Foreign Ministry personnel with new issues and Islamic points of view, there are short training courses available in the Foreign Ministry itself.

The deputy for education and consular affairs then spoke about conditions for granting visas to Iranian citizens. He said that granting a visa to a citizen of a country is based on the laws, regulations, and interests of that country. We are trying through continuous discussions to make arragements to make it possible to obtain visas. However, it is natural that due to the vast number of requests for visas by Iranian citizens some problems have surfaced. The situation has been better in recent months compared with the same period last year. We are trying to solve the problems of foreign representatives in Iran with regard to issuing visas to Iranian citizens. We hope that other countries, noting our expanding relations, will make available more facilities for the concerned officials.

Commenting on the cancellation of visa requirements for citizens of some countries, the deputy for education and consular affairs said: The issue of cancellation of visa requirements between the Islamic Republic and other countries depends on the conditions and interests of both parties. Therefore, we cannot predict the future situation with regard to the cancellation of visa requirements. However, at present there are no problems on visas

with some countries, and we are negotiating with other countries to create easier conditions.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,965

LD071746 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its 1965th communique today that at least 20 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the western fronts by the fire of Islamic defenders upon Iraqi positions, logistic columns and observation posts. A part of Iraqi positions were also set ablaze in these fronts during Sunday.

In the northwestern fronts of Haj 'Umran, Sardasht and Marivan the Islamic combatants inflicted casualties and damages upon Iraqi troops and silenced their fire. Exchange of fire was more intense in Sardasht.

In Darband Heights region, the logistic activities of the enemy's infantry units were disrupted and at least five Iraqis were killed during this period.

The Iraqi human casualties amounted to about 15 persons in these fronts and their losses included the destruction of several bunkers and artillery emplacements.

Movement of an Iraqi patrol group in Marivan was also halted by the fire of Islamic combatants.

In the western fronts, exchange of fire was more intense in Mehran region.

Also, the activities of Iraqi armoured units were checked by Islamic combatants in Naft-e Shah region in Western Iran during this period.

The Islamic combatants zeroed in on an Iraqi patrol group with heavy weaponry in Halaleh region at 19:30 hours local time (16:00 GMT) Saturday as a result of which enemy troops fled the scene suffering casualties and losses.

In the southern fronts, exchange of fire continued in most fronts being more intense in Nahr Anbar, Eynkhosh and Majnun Islands.

Abadan was barraged by Iraqi long-range fire during the past 24 hours as a result of which six housing units and shops were damaged, concluded the joint staff command communique.

UN Delegation Begins Tour of Bombed Villages

LD071754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Following the savage bombardment of the oppressed villages in Dasht-e Azadegan region by the aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi forces, which resulted in the injury and martyrdom of dozens of innocent people, this afternoon a delegation comprising the representatives of the UN secretary general arrived in Susangerd to inspect the effects of these savage attacks.

On their arrival the delegation visited a young (?women), who lost a leg in Dehlaviyeh village as a result of the bombardment and who is hospitalized at Shahid Chamran Hospital in Susangerd. The delegation was informed of the details of the attacks by enemy aircraft on the Dasht-e Azadegan villages.

One of the delegation members expressed sympathy for the injured person. He told (?her) aged father: We are very sorry that this tragedy has happened to your offspring. (?We promise) to tell the UN secretary general what we have seen here.

Then an official of Dasht-e Azadegan Governorate gave a report on the Iraqi air raid on the Dasht-e Azadegan villages.

Foreign Reporters Visit Khuzestan Province

LD071816 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan province, Jan. 7, IRNA — A group of foreign reporters from West Germany, Austria, Finland, United States, France and Britain today visited two villages in Khuzestan Province bombarded by the Iraqi warplanes on Friday.

An Arabic speaking resident of the Bardiyeh village said as a result of the expulsion of the Iraqi troops from occupied areas, the people in his village had long since resumed normal life, but the Iraqi bombings of his village and the village of Dehlaviyeh on Friday had caused much concern among the residents.

A U.N. fact-finding team is to inspect remains from Iraqi bombardment of civilian areas there.

A reporter of the Finnish television told IRNA that as a Westerner, he is surprised at the determination of villagers to remain in their homes braving the continuing Iraqi attacks.

He said he and other reporters had not seen any military quarters in or near the area.

A correspondent of an Austrian magazine said he had witnessed similar bombings by the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon.

SAIRI Statement Praises Iraqi Deserters

LD072345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement on the occasion of the anniversary of the formation of the Armed Forces of that country. That statement, referring to the execution of thousands of Iraqi officers and soldiers during the past year, says: Those who have deserted the Iraqi Armed Forces have volunteered to take part in the front line of the war between truth and falsehood in order to save their country from the domination of the dictatorship of the 'Aflaquite Saddam.

In another part of this statement, reference is made to the evil intentions of world arrogance to make use of the Iraqi Armed

Forces as a means for achieving their aggressive policies. It says: It will not be long before the Iraqi Armed Forces regain their real role and fight the colonialists and arrogant powers.

The statement concludes by saying: At the moment, Iraqi POW's,who are the guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ask to take part in the front line of the war against the Zionist Iraqi regime so that they can regain their true dignity and honor and liberate Iraq from the clutches of bloodsucking rulers.

Reconstruction of Khuzestan Cities Under Way
LD051155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] With the completion of operations for reconstructing and renovating the city of Hoveyzeh, all the inhabitants of that city will return to their homes by the end of this year [20 March 1985].The supervisor of the staff headquarters for the reconstruction and renovation of war-ravaged regions in Khuzestan Province, in an interview with an IRNA correspondent, announced: In order to achieve this, a staff headquarters has been set up which will see to the details concerning the problems of the citizens returning to Hoveyzeh. He added: Operations for reconstructing Hoveyzeh are being completed by the Imam Rida Shrine Foundation, and by the end of this year the citizens of Hoveyzeh will be able to return to their city.

In connection with the activities of the staff headquarters for reconstructing and renovating war-ravaged regions in Khuzestan Province he said: In this province more than 80,000 housing units were either destroyed or damaged by the Iraqi aggressors; so far 20,000 housing units have been reconstructed and another 3,500 housing or trading units are being rebuilt. These will be handed over to their new occupants by 11 February 1985 at the latest.

In conclusion, referring to the necessity of the local population moving to reconstruct their own houses, the supervisor of the staff headquarters for reconstructing and renovating our country's war-ravaged regions reminded: Since the executive organizations and reconstruction staff headquarters normally leave the area following the completion of the reconstruction work on every city, the citizens previously residing in the cities of Ramhormoz, Andimeshk, Behbehan, Hoveyzeh, Bostan, and Hoseyniyeh, who might have left these cities after rocket attacks and the destruction of their houses by the Saddamists, should return to their cities as soon as possible to supervise and participate in reconstructing their houses. Otherwise the reconstruction staff headquarters will not bear any responsibility for the reconstruction of their houses.

Iraqi Muslims Enter Iran Seeking Refuge
GF051910 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Thirty more Iraqi Muslims have sought refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This group, consisting of inhabitants from Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, and Al Hallah, escaped from the oppression of the Saddamist regime and its tyrannical practices and entered Iran across the Iraqi eastern border.

Rebels Surrender in Kordestan, W. Azerbayjan
LD072104 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Urumiyeh, West Azerbayjan Pr., Jan. 7, IRNA — Some 2,600 anti-revolutionary rebels in Kordestan and West Azerbayjan Provinces, surrendered to Islamic forces in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21 - August 23, 1984).

The head of the political and ideological department of the Urumiyeh 64th armoured division said anti-revolutionary groups are in a very bad state in the region and are not the least supported by the Kurdish masses.

In 1362 (1983-84) over 2,000 top military members of the rebel groups gave themselves up to the Islamic forces compared to the first five months of the current year, he said.

He also said the personnel of the division had donated 127,000 rials (dlrs 13,660) to famished Ethiopians.

Shultz-Gromyko Meeting in Geneva Examined
GF071739 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Jan 85

[From the "Political Followups" commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state will meet again in Geneva to discuss strategic arms proliferation. [Words indistinct] every time and whenever the interests of the two superpowers — which are politically and financially dividing the world — became a necessity. If we studied what has been said and written about these talks, we would be able to write big tomes which would repeat the same talk and the same tone.

Wherever the first meeting is held, whether in the Soviet Embassy in Zurich or the U.S. Embassy, and while only few days have passed since the Soviet missile violated Norwegian and Finnish airspace, there is more than one fact to be considered:

The first fact is that these international talks, which take place occasionally in some capital of the West or East, are aimed at misleading the public, especially in Western Europe, where people think they will be affected by any nuclear confrontation between the two superpowers. [Word indistinct] the stand of the Western regimes toward their people, they allowed the Americans to deploy their missiles on their territories. If the Western media continues to play the same tune, which accuses the Soviets of undermining the talks, the Soviets will suffer greatly. Therefore, a meeting in Geneva or any other place is aimed at deceiving the European people and strengthening their governments' position, which is supporting the United States.

The second fact is that each country is trying to blame the other for the failure of the talks, while each continues to fill their arsenals with these dangerous weapons, by taking full advantage

of the media as a means to accuse the other. The Americans want to improve their image to the European peoples by saying that the Soviets have undermined the talks. The Soviets accuse their counterparts. So the game continues to shift between the Soviets and the Americans, and the victims are the ignorant people who do not know what will happen to them in the future. Therefore, it is true that the United States tries to undermine the Soviet economy, whether by dragging the Soviet Union into the Afghan quagmire,or by involving it in the arms race, which is a burden to the Soviet economy.

But it seems that there are some similar joint stands between the East and the West. Both of them are making use of the strategic arms issue to achieve their interests and goals. If the Americans achieve their goal in one place, they keep silent about a Soviet invasion in some other part of the world, and so on.

In the end, the stand of regimes falling under the influence of the two pacts [indistinct word] seems to be clear, whether through the statements of various officials, or upon reflection of faults and analyses by their media organs. Whatever the results of the talks between Shultz and Gromyko, it will only be an addition to the list of meetings held between the two sides over the past years, which led to nothing.

Day by day [words indistinct] all the people, especially those who will be subjected to a nuclear confrontation. The two giants are only looking out for their own interests. Actually this is the real failure of both Marxism and Nazism. Both theories aim at weakening humanity.

The only way out for humanity is to reject the conventional laws and return to the heavenly messages of the prophets so that life can regain its purity and affection. Is there anyone listening?

State of Nation's Economic Condition Viewed

GF060800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The 2-day seminar on income tax ended last week. On the first day of the seminar, attended by a number of economists in the country, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi delivered an important speech. The prime minister stressed the necessity of adopting new methods and relying on resources other than oil revenues. He said that there should be a logical and sound system of income tax.

While looking into the current economic problems and difficulties of the country we cannot overlook the conditions in Iran during the disgraceful regime of the Pahlavi dynasty. If we are to have a just and fair judgment about the present economic conditions in the Islamic Republic, we cannot overlook the restrictions and shortcomings in economic matters which theregime imposed on us during its 50-year rule. Therefore, we should first look at the economic conditions in Iran prior to thevictory of the Islamic Revolution. But prior to this, we must keep in mind the size of the country, different climates in different regions, the size of the population, the existance of huge mineral resources, both underground and on the surface, and other characteristics of Iran. By introducing detailed programs and properly using the country's potential and other means, we can meet the country's needs through these measures.

For the economic independence of our country, basic and fundamental measures were taken by responsible authorities after the victory of the revolution. They took into account the existing means in the country to reduce reliance on the export of oil. The production industry should become self-sufficient and under the directives of the imam of the ummah, agriculture should be the basis for improving the economy. If we decide to end our reliance on oil revenues under a long-term plan, we should rely more on domestic output and production. This could be done if special attention is paid to greater agricultural production and to other resources according to their value.

It is on this basis that a decision has been made to only use oil temporarily — oil is presently the only source of income in the country — while other sectors of the country's economy are being expanded.

The program to boost agriculture has met with difficulties because the government is facing the problem of uncontrolled migration from rural areas to urban areas and the vast differences in self-sufficiency in the villages and cities.

The two major factors for the economic difficulties in the country are the imposed war and economic sanctions. Nobody can say that the war and the economic sanctions have not been effective in keeping agricultural output low.

As for industry, there has been good progress. Thanks to Iranian specialists in various fields there has been improved production in most of the industrial centers. The output of spare parts has also been satisfactory.

According to published statistics, the participation of people in industrial investments has increased, particularly after the directive by the imam of the ummah regarding participation of the people in economic activities. It is hoped that better conditions will be afforded by the government to the people for industrial investments. Of course, as for industry, we must place the highest priority on the introduction of proper technology. We hope that after the passage of the first 5-year development plan in the Majlis, we will be able to see more success in industry.